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OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2005/06/09 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100240080-4

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE | COI | ACP | TOG | TPE | MRO | TRI | PAGES

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CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR: CIA/OCI | DATE-TIME GROUP: /WHIZWH | CITE: 74052/ | MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

25X1

[redacted]

ITEM NO: UR-7 DATE: 23 MAY 1974

SUBJECT: POWER STRUGGLE WITHIN ARMY IN URUGUAY

25X1 [redacted]

25X1 EMBASSY [redacted] DESCRIBES WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY AN INTRA-ARMY POWER STRUGGLE. THE DEATH OF THE CIVILIAN VICE PRESIDENT ON MAY 10 LEFT A VACANCY THAT SEVERAL TOP GENERALS APPARENTLY WANTED TO FILL WITH A COLLEAGUE. RETIRED GENERAL AGUERRONDO. PRESIDENT BORDABERRY AND ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL CHIAPPE POSSE OBJECTED TO THE CHOICE. IN THE ENSUING CONFRONTATION, CHIAPPE POSSE CALLED ON TWO DIVISION COMMANDERS TO RESIGN THEIR POSTS. THE TWO WERE SUPPORTED, HOWEVER, BY SENIOR COLLEAGUES, INCLUDING THE COMMANDER OF THE MONTEVIDEO AREA, GENERAL CIESTI, AND THE TWO GENERALS APPARENTLY RETAINED THEIR POSITIONS.

INTERESTINGLY, THE POWER PLAY DESCRIBED DID NOT HAVE AS ITS OBJECTIVE THE REMOVAL OF THE PRESIDENT, AND HAS BEEN CONFINED TO

DATE:
ORIG:
UNIT:
EXT:

State Department review completed

25X1

RELEASING OFFICER | COORDINATING OFFICERS | [redacted]

CLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

FORM 4-73 4C USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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THE ARMY. THE DIVISIVENESS WITHIN THE ARMY SUGGESTS, MOREOVER, THAT WHILE TOP OFFICERS MAY FEEL THAT BORDABERRY EVENTUALLY MUST GO, THEY CANNOT YET DECIDE HOW, OR WITH WHOM TO REPLACE HIM. THE ARMY WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF HOW TO REPLACE ITS OWN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BEFORE IT CAN EFFECTIVELY PRESS FURTHER ITS DEMANDS ON BORDABERRY FOR CHANGES IN THE CABINET.

THE EMBASSY CALLS CHIAPPE POSSE A "MODERATE" AND SUGGESTS THAT HIS OPPOSITION TO AGUERRONDO WAS BASED ON A DESIRE TO KEEP A LESS MODERATE FIGURE FROM BEING NEXT IN LINE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. WHILE CHIAPPE POSSE MAY INDEED BE POLITICALLY MODERATE, HIS PROPOSAL FOR A MILITARY JUNTA WOULD LIKELY HAVE INCREASED HIS OWN CHANCES FOR EVENTUALLY GAINING THE PRESIDENCY. FURTHERMORE, FOURTH ARMY DIVISION COMMANDER GENERAL ALVAREZ, LONG CONSIDERED A MODERATE, HAS ALSO SUPPORTED THE OPPOSITE OF CHIAPPE POSSE. FINALLY, THOSE DESCRIBED AS MODERATES, DO NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSE A MILITARY TAKEOVER ANY MORE THAN THOSE WHO ARE NOT SO DESCRIBED. [redacted] 25X1

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2 (SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: WH DIV AND WHO [redacted]
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